

SHOP TALK

ISSUES AND NEWS AFFECTING THE AUSTRALIAN SHOPPING CENTRE INDUSTRY

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QUEENSLAND PARLIAMENT PASSES TRADING HOURS AMENDMENTS

The Queensland Parliament this week passed the [amendment bill](#) to address an oversight in trading hours legislation passed in 2017 ([Shop Talk, 5/3/18](#)). The passage of the legislation will enable all relevant shops to trade on Easter Saturday (this year, Saturday 31 March), in areas without Sunday (i.e. seven-day) trading. The permissible Easter Saturday trading hours for these stores will be 8am-6pm. The affected regional and rural towns include Mt Isa, Kingaroy, Roma, Ayr, Mission Beach, and Blackwater. This is a positive outcome for consumers, and we congratulate Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Grace Grace MP, for addressing this oversight, and its passage through Parliament.

AUSTRALIAN BUILDING CODES BOARD CONSULTS ON ACCESSIBLE ADULT CHANGE FACILITIES

The Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) has released a [Consultation Regulation Impact Statement](#) regarding a potential future requirement in the National Construction Code (NCC) to incorporate accessible adult change facilities (otherwise known as 'changing places' facilities) in new shopping centres. The Consultation RIS "identifies that the provision of AACFs is insufficient to account for the needs of people with a complex disability". Other proposed solutions to the issue include non-regulatory options such as a national grant scheme. Comments on the RIS are open until 13 April.

NSW GIFT CARD REFORM: MORE INFORMATION RELEASED TO INFORM IMPLEMENTATION

NSW Fair Trading has released a range of [collateral](#) to assist businesses (including shopping centres) inform their staff and customers about the pending changes to gift card regulation in NSW. This includes an 'in-store' notice, which also refers people to the NSW Fair Trading website in terms of gift cards and vouchers that are exempt from the new regulation. From 31 March, most gift cards sold to a consumer in NSW must have a minimum three-year expiry period ([Shop Talk 23/2/18](#)). Post-purchase administration fees that reduce the card balance will be prohibited.

VICTORIAN OPPOSITION ANNOUNCES POLICE SHOP-FRONTS IN SHOPPING CENTRES

The Victorian Opposition has announced a policy, that if elected at the November 2018 state election, they will fund the establishment of police shop-fronts in 12 shopping centres across Melbourne and Geelong. This proposed initiative is similar to the 'police beat' program in Queensland, which was established in the 1990s.

LATEST ABS RETAIL FIGURES INDICATE SLOWING GROWTH ON A YEAR-ON-YEAR BASIS

The latest release (January 2018) of the monthly ABS Retail Trade data indicates that the month-on-month (m-o-m) trend estimate increased by 0.3 per cent, equal to (a revised) 0.3 per cent in the prior corresponding period (pcp). In trend terms, Retail Turnover increased by 2.3 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y), up from (a revised) 2.1 per cent in the pcp. In seasonally adjusted terms, the strongest growth was recorded for 'Other' retailing on both a m-o-m basis (1.0 per cent) as well as on a y-o-y basis (3.2 per cent). In seasonally adjusted terms, Retail Turnover increased by 0.1 per cent in the month of January 2018, significantly up from -0.5 per cent in the pcp. On a y-o-y basis, Retail Turnover increased by 2.1 per cent, down from 2.5 per cent in the pcp. According to the 'experimental estimates of online retail turnover' (i.e. turnover from domestic online retail sales - explained [here](#)) online retail turnover decreased by 23.3 per cent on a m-o-m basis in January 2018, similarly, 'traditional' retail (total retail turnover less online retail) decreased by 23.0 per cent over the same timeframe. The strongest jurisdictions in seasonally adjusted terms were Tasmania (up 4.2 per cent to \$4.9 billion) followed by Victoria (up 3.9 per cent to \$79.5 billion) and South Australia (up 3.7 per cent to \$20.5 billion). 'Cafes, restaurants and takeaway food services' retailing continues to drive growth in New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and Tasmania. 'Department stores' retailing was the weakest performing category in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. Victoria was the only jurisdiction to record positive growth across all six ABS categories.

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